CRITICAL REVIEWS OF THE SEASON'S LATEST BOOKS

Anatole France's Story of the French Revolution-Bright Foolery by Rowland Thomas.

Gelett Burgess Gives Old Time Roaring Farce-Other Fiction-Many Juveniles.

Holiday Editions Already Appearing-Housekeeper's Handy Book-Miscellaneous Subjects.

"The Gods Are Athirst," translated kindly old lawyer. The story reads like by Alfred Allinson, is the latest volume a "novelized" play.

issued in the handsome limited English The ingenious idea has occurred to edition of the complete works of Anatole France now being published under the editorship of Frederic Chapman (John Lane Company). In this we have a characteristic and of course a fallen in love with, and the greater part vigorous and thoroughly interesting of the story deals with their wanderings story and picture of the French revolution. The well known frontes are plentifully supplied. We hear the citizen Brotteaux, rich and noble once upon a time, now living in a garret reached by a ladder. He is a very gentle philosopher and sceptic, quite capable of facing cheerfully the great change in his circumstances. To make a living the cooked and sold pancakes and friteward friteward for the cooked and sold pancakes and friteward fritewa ters on the quays, painted portraits in the streets, gave dancing lessons, manuthe streets, gave dancing lessons, manufactured dolls. Of his dolls he said: "I am their creator; they have received of me a perishable body exempt from joys and sufferings. I have not given them the gift of thought, for I am a

benevolent god."

We see the fair Elodie, daughter of the print seller, inspecting keenly the paper money taken in over the counter. Death was the punishment for counter-"Yet plates for printing assignats were to be found in every cellar, the Swiss smuggled in counterfeits by the million, whole packets were put in the last half is devoted to a compli-circulation in the inns, the English cated fight of the higher finance in landed bales of them every day on our coasts to ruin the republic's credit and bring good patriots to destitution." Elodie was as cautious in passing out the paper money as she was in re-ceiving it. Naturally she was terrified of all the persons who appear in the at the possibility of being apprehended story.

and treated as the accomplice of Pitt. In "The Surakarta," by William Mac-

The young painter, Gamelin, hero of the story, pointed out that the patriot nard and Company, Boston), we have a revolutionists were opposed to killing mystery tale. This has to do with the and that the death penalty would be abolished after the enemies of the republic had been disposed of. Brotteaux commented upon this. "I have no ob- ways without success, and the authors jection on principle to make to the delight in exhibiting the stupidity of the guillotine," he said. "Nature, my only police. The mystery is solved and the mistigs and my only instructress, cer- emerald recovered by a German naturtainly offers me no suggestion to the alist speaking extraordinary broken effect that a man's life is of any value; English. A greater mystery, however, on the contrary she teaches in all kinds, which is not expained satisfactorily, is of ways that it is of none. The sole end and object of living beings seems to be to serve as food for other beings destined to the same end. Murder is of natural right; therefore the penalty of death is lawful on condition it is exercised from no motives either of virtue or of justice, but by necessity or to gain some profit thereby. However, is not expained satisfactorily, is which is not expained satisfactorily, is the queer behavior of the too opulent heroine and the manner in which she and the hero are made to love each other. It is pretty crude stuff.

The letters written by the two old maids in "Dave's Daughter," by Patience Bevier Cole (Frederick A. Stokes Company), are charming and redeem a rather commonplace stery that sufto gain some profit thereby. However, a rather commonplace stdry that suffered to see blood flow, and this defect of character all my philosophy has failed so far to correct." The young and more amenable to her scheming and redeem a rather commonplace stdry that suffered has been a common and redeem a rather commonplace stdry that suffered has been a suffered has hero of the tale was not distinguished aunt's designs than a young woman by humor. He replied that republicans of her training should be. Her lover's were humane and full of feeling. That attitude is literary and not genuine: would be made plain after the last foe Her troubles are too palpably invented of the republic had perished beneath for the purpose of giving the old ladies if Gamelin did not philosophize with pretty story and the letters are good. the sword of law and order.

humor he was capable of great affection and his heart overflowed with charity. Remington and Company, Baltimore). A very touching passage in the story a story wholly unlike those with which relates how he cut. in two the loaf that he has heretofore entertained his read-A very touching passage in the story fell to his share after hours of strenu- ers, George A. Birmingham has dared waiting at the baker's and gave to speak of '98. He makes his young half to a fainting woman with a baby; here take part in the uprising in Ulster half to his mother, explaining to her story if he chooses to. He does not that he had eaten his part of their allowance on the way. To prove the and takes occasion to express the views truth of this generous lie he pretended of the conservative lovers of Ireland shake the crumbs off his jacket, as well as of the enthusiasts, which When he heard the cry that Marat had may not prove grateful to all in these been slain by the aristocrats he was days of agitation. The story is excites keen an understanding of what had otherwise, but it is relieved by plenty happened as he had. The story relates: of humor and by bright sketches of "As he was on his way, his heart burst- Irish characters. The author's syming with grief and hate and love, to pathles are all with the men who were pay a last mark of respect to the martyr liberty, an old country woman wear- hopelessness of their effort. ing the coif of the Limousin peasantry accosted him to ask if the Monsieur Marat who had been murdered was not A. Stokes Company), begins, as is the Monsieur le Cure Mara of St. Pierre-de-

The passions of men and of women were strongly in play at the time con-sidered in the story. They are pictured here in their variety and very vividly.

Some Fall Fiction.

As bright a bit of artistic fooling as we have come across in many a long day is Rowland Thomas's modern Arabian Nights tale "Fatima" (Little, Brown and Company). It is no imitation, for the people are such as any and the touches of sceptical humor every now and then warn the reader that with all the Oriental glamour he is in the twentleth century. He will be delighted with the crafty young minx who is the heroine of the story, with the ingenious ideas she draws from the contemplation of the old Egyptian god, er revelations of her woman's nature and with her bold dash into the world her imagination has opened up to her. When her adventures begin to tax his credulity the author by a dex-terous and unexpected twist brings him back to reality. Mr. Thomas has caught the true spirit of the Arabian Nights and has employed it on everyday material that was near at hand. His work-manship is most careful; if Orientals may detect faults in it, the Westerners. who will read the story, will be wholly

In his latest tale, "Love in a Hurry," (Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis), Gelett Burgess has dropped almost all his idiosyncrasies and tried his hand at an almost forgotten form of literature, the "roaring farce" of crinoline days, a naughty Palais Royal piece position of "New Thought" doctrine. We boiled down into the proper shape the see nothing in it that does not antedate British public would swallow. A young photographer finds himself obliged to centuries. within a few hours in order to win a fortune. To make sure he proposes to three women in succession, who all defer their answer, but neglects his into a story by Arthur Hornblow, illusassistant, who really cares for him. When he discovers that he wants her he is accepted by the three others and has some difficulty in making them retioned helped with the play or with the story does not appear.

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Seventher the minent When he discovers that he wants her

through the desert lands of Arizona, while her friends chase them. The ex-perience restores the young woman's health and teaches her to appreciate

the joy of camping out and doing things herself. She also falls in love with the hero and marries him. The

mixture. There are good descriptions

It is life among the extremely rich

that Frank H. Spearman describes in

'Merrille Dawes" (Charles Scribner's

Sons), a singularly unscrupulous race

and he, being the hero, is more than willing. Delicacy, however, forces her

to reject him, lest people should accuse

her of what she has done. Their flirta-tions take up the first half of the book.

Wall Street, in which the heroine stakes

her whole enormous fortune to protect

her lover's interests. Fictitious specu-lation is highly exciting. The reader

Harg and Edwin Balmer (Small, May-

"The Northern Iron" (Norman

and shows that he can tell a serious

crushed, even if he is not blind to the

The story of "Prescott, of Saskatch

ewan," by Harold Bindloss (Frederick

author's custom, with pleasing pictures of farm life in the Canadian Northwest,

which in due time should fascinate

English visitors. It turns soon into

search is interesting; the incidents de

scribed in it are the best part of the story. The mystery itself is managed

it does. The constant harping on the narrowmindedness of the English from

home grows a trifle wearisome, too.

The story is fairly interesting and in

spots shows what the author can do

Having put her young heroine through ten volumes of adventures

Carolyn Wells in the eleventh, "Patty's

Social Season" (Dodd, Mead and Com-

pany), launches her into the fully grown

up world. The young woman is uni-

formly charming and sweet tempered.

The things she does may not be of.

thor to give helpful suggestions about

various social functions, such as the re-

ception, dinner and dance for a de-

butante, a Christmas party, a wedding

many hints as to feminine garments.

There seems to be no reason why the

heroine's later adventures should not

A short story of family troubles in

a country village, "The Little Window," by Helen M. Hodsdon (Thomas Y. Cro-

well Company), is announced as an ex-

see nothing in it that does not antedate

Another successful play, "The Argyle

Case" (Harpers) by Harriet Ford and

Harvey J. O'Higgins, has been turned

fill another dozen volumes.

when he exerts himself.

a search for a man who is suppose to be murdered, while suspicion falls upon the hero with little reason. The

of open air life in the story.

Admiral Dewey Honore Willsie of making the hero of "The Heart of the Desert" (Frederick The Greatest Living American Sea-Fighter, Tells the Stery

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apparently. The heroine, so far as we can judge, deliberately sets to work to attach to herself her friend's betrothed, In "Joe, the Book Farmer" (Harpers) in this country. It is a capital story by Garrard Harris, an amazingly entical knowledge from the bulletins of the Agricultural Department and applies it, thereby lifting up his own domestic circle and the whole countryside. The author seems to be more interested in the comparison of prices than in explaining the details of farming operations. He enlivens the tale with capital sporting adventures, a coon hunt, a bear hunt and a barbecue among them, and with amusing darky sketches, which makes us hope that he will devote himself to the entertain-will be found entertaining by old and ment of youth and leave instruction to

duller pens.
Steam and modern armor cannot dim the glory of the old sailing warships, and the early exploits of the young American navy are still the most ro-mantic in the eyes of boys. The tale of Perry's victory is told again in this year of its centennial celebration by Everett T. Tomlinson in "The Boy Sailors of 1812" (Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Company, Boston), with the usual accompaniment of youthful par-

ticipants. A series of illustrated historical books of British make comes to us from the Thomas Y. Crowell Company. In some of these the authors have endeavored to enliven or to popularize the narrative in various ways, in others they treat it as formal history. In "The Conquerors of Peru" Henry M. Gilbert draws wholly on Prescott, as he acknowledges on the title page. A like obligation to Motley is Arthur H. Dawson's for "Stories from Dutch History," which end with William III.'s accession to the British throne; but the author tells also the early history of the Low Countries. More formal are "The Story of the French Revolu-tion," by Alice Birkhead, and "The Boys' Wellington," by Harold F. B. Wheeler, while the old chronicles give room for romance in Eleanor Hull's "The Northmen in Britain" and R. L. Mackie's "The Story of King Robert the Bruce." The selection of "Heroes of Modern Europe" by Alice Birkhead is somewhat arbitrary. with their fanciful epithets serve merely to enable the author to join together continuous history of continental Europe from Dante to the fall of Napoleon III. The designation of Frederick the Great as "the royal robber" and of Tolstoy as "the reformer of the East" indicate some prejudice. In another series we have the abridgment of a noted historical book, Bourrienne's "Memoirs of Napoleon," by Robert Arm strong (Thomas Nelson and Sons; Sully and Kleinteich), illustrated with pictures in color.

We may have our doubts as to the at traction for children primitive man and paleoozoic ages may have and as to whether they need to be brought to their attention at an early age, but probably some youngsters crave information about the strange monsters that are set up in museums. For them Lilian Gask has written "Once Upon a Time" (Thomas Y. Crowell Company), which Patten Wilson illustrates, making a competent professor explain the theories and facts of anthropology and cognate sciences to an expectant band of young clumsily, it is long drawn out after the manner of dull detective stories and reflects less credit on the Northwest Mounted Police than the author thinks

A sort of advanced course in manual training is provided by Archibald Williams in "How to Make Things" (Sully and Kleintsich, New York). Though the does explain some things about carpentry, joiner's work and a few simple devices the main portion of the book has to do with the construction of engines, turbines and electric apparatus. A sort of advanced course in manual engines, turbines and electric apparatus. Pogany's presentation of the "Rubaiyat He makes no concessions in the matter of technical language. It is to small colored pictures and typography that children that Stella George Stern Perry apes the Persian script. The decorachildren that Stella George Stern Perry apes the Persian script. The decora-addresses herself in "When Mother Lets" tions are dainty on the dark gray Us Act" (Moffat, Yard and Company); paper; a few of the pictures are pretty. Us Act" (Moffat, Yard and Company); she limits herself judiciously to games, tableaux, dressing up, dancing, recitals and other things suitable for children, much importance, but they are such as leaving out plays with words to be most young girls do and enable the aution about birds, insects and flowers has been written by William J. Claxton in "Lessons from Nature's Workshop" (Thomas Y. Crowell Company). He is entertaining as well as instructive, and writes in a manner to be understood which would make the page much more attractive. Mr. Clark's drawing and

and a masquerade ball, and to drop by young readers. Reprints of juvenile classics are always welcome. Short stories by Charles com Dickens, two taken from the "Holiday ing. Romance" and one from the "Seven Poor Travellers" are published sep-arately as picture books by the Houghton Mifflin Company, though they were made in England. Under their new titles they may be mistaken for Dick- Millet Baxter's are called "The Story of Richard Dou-bledick," "Captain Boldheart and the Mrs. Baxter gives helpful directions

when they usually appear. They come pany. The one book that Capt. Marfrom many publishers so that the ryatt wrote for boys, "Masterman change seems to be general. Ready," has been well nigh forgotten ergetic boy of fourteen absorbs prac- can hold its own with the modern ad-

> many providers. Thornton W. Burgess has struck upon an amusing style that young. The note of childishness is maintained by Josephine Scribner Gates in "Little Girl Blue Plays 'I Spy'" (Houghton Miffin Company): it is the dominating quality in the little book. The pictures in the "Sunny Hour Story Book" (The Platt and Peck Company, New York), by Ruth Crossley, are good and the tales and verses are simple. The same is true of Ruth Crossley's "When Mother Reads to Us" (The Platt and Peck Company). We are not im-pressed by either text or pictures of "Little Tot's Sand Man Stories" and Little Tot's Ten Minute Stories" (The Platt and Peck Company). An anthology of extracts from children's story books has been made by Clara Morris in "Story Book Treasures" (Little, Brown and Company). The idea, we imagine, is to tempt young readers to read the books after they have tasted these samples.

> Though designed for pedagogical pur-poses "The Child's Book of American Francis K. Ball (Little, Brown and Company), makes interesting reading for the stories are told simply and are such as children will remember. Some described in "Colette in France," by Etta Blaisdell McDonald (Little, Brown and Company). They include Paris and the places near at hand. Normandy and Vichy. A pony tells the story of his own life and that of the children who play with him in May Winne's "The Story of Heather" (Thomas Nelson and Sons; Sully and Kleinteich). Two story books with colored pictures are also published by Sully and Kleinteich, "The Old Fairy Tales," which contains many nursery favorites, and "A Book of Birds and Beasts," which inculcates kindness to dumb animals.

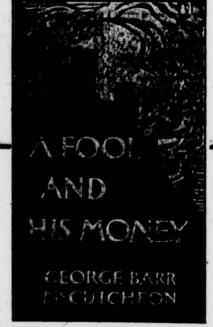
Holiday Editions.

Rather early in the season the stream of illustrated gift books has turned this way with three volumes that come from the Thomas Y. Crowell The most artistic of these is Henry D. Thoreau's "Excursions," illustrated with the photographs taken by Clifton Johnson. This is the fifth of Thoreau's books that Mr. Johnson has illustrated in the only way that is appropriate. He has followed in his author's tracks and has taken the most poetic view he could of the places he exactly as Thoreau saw them; in others they suffer inevitably from the en croachments of time and civilization but are the best that can be secured tures are those where the photographe

of Omar Khayyam," with decorations all are quaint: the quatrains are read with some difficulty in their strange dress. The general effect is intensely Persian, like that of an imitation rug. A classic tale, R. D. Blackmore's "Lorna Doone," is decorated with six-Clark. His art is of the chromo variety and while some of his pictures are passable we would gladly exchange most of them for wider spacing in the text,

composition are better than his color-

A sad commentary on the gross nature of man is the fact that in Lugia ens novelties, particularly as they are Handy-Book" (Houghton Mifflin Comnot among his best known tales. They pany) the greater part of the book is Latin Grammar Master" and "The and suggestions on other domestic mattrial of William Tinkling." The pictures are good and the stories such as work, first aid and needlework; no reJust Published



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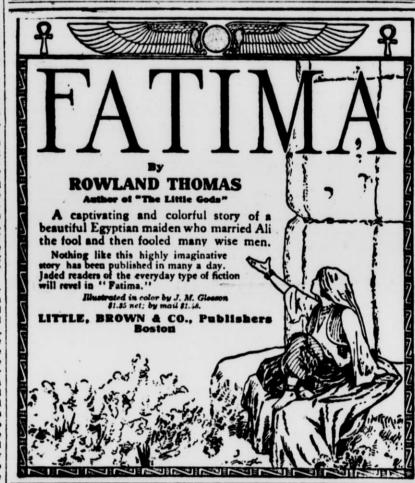
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preaches very little she ingeniously straint and they certainly have abstains from printing recipes, save in a few instances, in which flesh or fish unless he takes up "Rienzi," with! Dramatic as a play, with the has a share. Her book is a valuable the present issue of "Tristan and spiritual appeal of a poetic aladdition to every housewife's library.

such as one on the heart affairs of the generally more intelligible. Presidents of the United States and an-

proper place in this memorial volume Isolda" (Thomas Y. Crowell Company) Many miscellaneous articles and Oliver Huckel has completed his selfpoems by the late Myrtle Reed have imposed task of turning the stories of that came to a brilliant atheistic been gathered in a volume called all the Wagner operas into English "Threads of Gray and Gold," which is verse. The nine volumes cover all the published in a shape uniform with her Teutonic plots. We can say for Mr. other works by G. P. Putnam's Sons. Huckel's verse that it is in no way Several series of papers are included, inferior to the German original and is

An unpretentious little pamphlet other on the qualities of women. Every that is helpful not only to children prose article is followed by a piece of for whom it has been prepared, but to verse and a portrait of the author is all city people who go into the parks provided. While these articles may or the country comes to us from the have no great intrinsic value they are Calvert School, Baltimore, "Common written pleasantly and with some re- Trees: How to Know Them by Their

The Iron Trail

By Rex Beach

Alaska again!—the scene of Rex Beach's great successesn a story more crowded with action and sentiment than anything he has ever done before. Struggles of rival railroad builders, fights against the glaciers, and the love of an unusual heroine, make a powerful novel, quickening the blood like glacial air. As for humor, there is a new vein of it in "The Iron Trail" as rich as the gold through Klondike's best ore.

The Desired Woman By Will N. Harben

In the pages of Mr. Harben's newest book one encounters life in Georgia of to-day in all its intensity. It is the Georgia of great mills and big enterprises, of heavy speculation and the sophistications of people in great cities, as well as of simple moun-tain folk and their homely ways. Its keynote is the inevitable triumph of love and tolerance, the far-spreading influence of good impulses. .

The Argyle Case By Arthur Hornblow

This story is the novelization of one of the most successful plays, and is based upon the romantic experiences of the famous detective, William J. Burns, in bringing a certain band of criminals to justice by his un-usual methods. The love story

which runs through it is simple and delightful. The Golden Rule **Dollivers**

By Margaret Cameron

This story is pure fun. Two incorrigible optimists, when they became owners of a touring motor car, tried to share their pleasure with others. Their kindness led them into all kinds of predicaments. This novel has a laughter-compelling quality about it that is irresistible, and adds greatly to the reputation the author has made as an inventor of humorous situations.

Thirty Pieces of Silver

By Clarence B. Kelland

Dramatic as a play, with the legory, is this telling of the vision orator. The coin that slipped from the greedy palm of Judas down through the ages into the modern lecturer's hand convicted him as an accomplice of the Great Betrayer.

Leaves," by V. M. Hillyer. No further description is needed; it is a list of trees accompanied by simple descriptions of their leaves and by silhouette outlines of each kind of leaf. It enables the reader to identify at once any tree he is likely to find in this neighborhood.



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